

IN THE CLAIMS

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A contents acquisition method comprising:

~~a file request information transmission step of~~ transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

~~a file reception step of~~ receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

~~a temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received; ~~in the file reception step;~~

~~a determination step of~~ determining if contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

~~a contents request information transmission step of~~ transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is determined ~~in the determination step~~ that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

~~a data reception step of~~ receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

~~a contents identification information temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined ~~in the determination step~~ that the contents identification information is registered

in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed; ~~in the data reception step;~~

~~an attributes request information transmission step of~~ transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

~~an attributes information reception step of~~ receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information;

~~a contents attributes identification information temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information; ~~in the attributes information reception step;~~

~~a registration step of~~ registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; [[and]]

~~a temporarily stored information deletion step of~~ deleting the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes information.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information that makes the contents data usable.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information that makes the contents data reproducible.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information for increasing the number of times of copying the contents data stored in the storage medium to other storage mediums.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
~~an acquisition start information temporary storage step of temporarily storing~~  
acquisition start information for starting acquisition of the contents data before the  
transmitting of the file request information. ~~transmission step.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:  
~~an acquisition start information temporary in-storage determination step of~~  
determining if the acquisition start information is temporarily stored or not when a  
communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection with the  
external apparatus;

~~an in-storage contents identification information temporary storage determination step~~  
of determining if the in-storage contents identification information is temporarily stored or  
not when it is determined that the acquisition start information is temporarily stored; ~~in the~~  
~~acquisition start information temporary in-storage determination step;~~ and

~~a restoration time attributes request information transmission step of~~ transmitting the  
attribute request information reacquiring the contents attributes information for altering the  
attributes of the contents data that correspond to the in-storage contents identification  
information to the attributes information providing address when it is determined that the in-

storage contents identification information is temporarily stored, ~~in the in-storage contents identification information temporary storage determination step.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
~~an acquisition/use file deletion step of deleting the acquisition/use file when the~~  
communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection with the  
external apparatus;  
~~a file re-request information transmission step of transmitting a file re-request~~  
information requesting the updated acquisition/use file;  
~~a file re-reception step of receiving the updated acquisition/use file corresponding to~~  
the file re-request information;  
~~an updated file temporary storage step of temporarily storing the received updated~~  
acquisition/use file; and  
~~a contents identification information temporary in-storage determination step of~~  
determining if the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing  
address in the updated acquisition/use file is temporarily stored or not, wherein  
the transmitting contents request information ~~transmission step being~~ is adapted to  
transmit the contents request information requesting the contents data corresponding to the  
contents identification information to the external apparatus when it is determined that the  
contents identification information is not temporarily stored, ~~in the contents identification~~  
~~information temporary in-storage determination step.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:  
~~a contents attributes identification information temporary in-storage determination~~  
~~step of determining if the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the~~

contents identification information is temporarily stored ~~[[on]]~~ or not when it is determined that the contents identification information is temporarily stored, ~~in the contents identification information temporary in storage determination step,~~ wherein

the transmitting attributes request information ~~transmission step being~~ is adapted to transmit the attributes request information requesting the contents attributes information corresponding to the contents attributes identification information to the attributes information providing address contained in the updated acquisition/use file when it is determined that the contents attributes identification information is not temporarily stored, ~~in the contents attributes identification information temporary in storage determination step.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

~~a registration determination step of~~ determining if the contents attributes information corresponding to the contents attribute identification information and the contents data corresponding to the contents attributes information are registered in the database or not when it is determined that the contents attributes identification information is temporarily stored, ~~in the contents attributes identification information temporary in storage determination step,~~ wherein

the registering ~~registration step being~~ is adapted to register the contents data and the contents attributes information when it is determined that the contents data and the contents attributes information are not registered in the database, ~~in the registration determination step.~~

10. (Currently Amended) An attributes information providing method to be used in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing

an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the method comprising:

~~an attributes request information reception step of receiving attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information;~~  
[[and]]

~~an attributes information transmission step of externally transmitting the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information having been received; and in the attributes request information reception step~~

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes information.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information that makes the contents data usable.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the contents attributes information includes the right of use information that makes the contents data reproducible.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information for increasing the number of times of copying the contents data stored in the storage medium to other storage mediums.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:  
~~a restoration time attributes request information reception step of~~ receiving the attributes request information transmitted when the acquisition start information is temporarily stored and the in-storage contents identification information of the contents data is temporarily stored at the time when the communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection although the acquisition start information indicating the start of acquisition of the contents data to the external apparatus is temporarily stored and the contents data and the contents attributes information corresponding to the contents data are registered in the database before temporarily storing the acquisition/use file but subsequently the acquisition start information and the in-storage contents identification information that are temporarily stored are erased.

15. (Currently Amended) A contents acquisition apparatus comprising:  
a file request information transmission section configured to transmit ~~means for~~ transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

a file reception section configured to receive ~~means for receiving~~ the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information transmitted by the file request information transmission section; [[means;]]

a temporary storage section configured to temporarily store ~~means for temporarily storing~~ the acquisition/use file received by the file reception section; [[means;]]

a determination section configured to determine ~~means for determining~~ if the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

a contents request information transmission section configured to transmit ~~means for transmitting~~ contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is determined by the determination section [[means]] that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

a data reception section configured to receive ~~means for receiving~~ the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus by the contents request information transmission section; [[means;]]

a contents identification information temporary storage section configured to temporarily store ~~means for temporarily storing~~ the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined by the determination section [[means]] that the contents identification information is registered in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed by the data reception section; [[means;]]

an attributes request information transmission section configured to transmit ~~means for transmitting~~ attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification



information by the contents identification information temporary storage section ~~[[means]]~~ is completed;

a attributes information reception section configured to receive ~~means for receiving~~ the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information transmitted by the attributes request information transmission section; ~~[[means;]]~~

a contents attributes identification information temporary storage section configured to temporarily store ~~means for temporarily storing~~ the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information by the attributes information reception section; ~~[[means;]]~~

a registration section configured to register ~~means for registering~~ the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; ~~[[and]]~~

a temporarily stored information deletion section configured to delete ~~means for deleting~~ the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

a control section configured to control the reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes information.

16. (Currently Amended) An attributes information providing apparatus to be used in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file containing the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the apparatus comprising:

an attributes request information reception section configured to receive ~~means for receiving~~ attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information; [[and]]

an attributes information transmission section configured to externally transmit ~~means for externally transmitting~~ the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information received by the attributes request information reception section; and [[means.]]

a control section configured to control the reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes information.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a contents acquisition program for causing an information processing apparatus to execute:

~~a file request information transmission step of~~ transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

~~a file reception step of~~ receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

~~a temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received; ~~in the file reception step;~~

~~a determination step of determining if the contents identification information~~  
corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a  
database or not;

~~a contents request information transmission step of transmitting contents request~~  
information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification  
information to the external apparatus if it is determined ~~in the determination step~~ that the  
contents identification information is not registered in the database;

~~a data reception step of receiving the contents data transmitted from the external~~  
apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external  
apparatus;

~~a contents identification information temporary storage step of temporarily storing the~~  
contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is  
determined ~~in the determination step~~ that the contents identification information is registered  
in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed; ~~in the data reception~~  
~~step;~~

~~an attributes request information transmission step of transmitting attributes request~~  
information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the  
contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the  
attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary  
storage of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

~~an attributes information reception step of receiving the contents attributes~~  
information corresponding to the attributes request information;

~~a contents attributes identification information temporary storage step of temporarily~~  
storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents

attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information; ~~in the attributes information reception step;~~

~~a registration step of~~ registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; [[and]]

~~a temporarily stored information deletion step of~~ deleting the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes information.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with an attributes information providing program to be executed by an information processing apparatus in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed before externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file containing the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and after requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the program comprising:

~~an attributes request information reception step of~~ receiving attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information; and

~~an attributes information transmission step of~~ externally transmitting the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents

identification information in response to the attributes request information having been  
received; ~~and in the attributes request information reception step.~~

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes  
information.

19. (New) A contents acquisition method comprising:

transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a  
contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an  
external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received;

determining if contents identification information corresponding to the contents  
providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data  
corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is  
determined that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of  
transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents  
identification information when it is determined that the contents identification information is  
registered in the database and temporarily storing the contents identification information as  
in-storage contents identification information when the reception of the contents data is  
completed;

transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes  
information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage  
contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the

acquisition/use file when the temporarily storing of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information;

temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information in the receiving the contents attributes information;

registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database;  
and

deleting the temporarily stored information after the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database.